

CLAIMS

1. A rubber composition for a pneumatic tire comprising (i) 100 parts by weight of a diene-based rubber and (ii) 5 to 120 parts by weight of carbon black having a particle size of 15 to 40 nm, a nitrogen absorption specific surface area  $N_2SA$  of 60 to 200  $m^2/g$  and a pH of 1 to 5 or 8.5 to 13.

2. A rubber composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein a dibutyl phthalate absorption DBPA of said carbon black is 30 to 80 ml/100 g.

3. A rubber composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said diene-based rubber is at least one member selected from the group consisting of natural rubbers, polyisoprene rubbers, polybutadiene rubbers, styrene-butadiene copolymer rubbers and ethylene-propylene-diene terpolymer rubbers.

4. A rubber composition as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said carbon black is carbon black having a particle size of 18 to 35 nm, a nitrogen absorption specific surface area  $N_2SA$  of 70 to 180  $m^2/g$ , a dibutyl phthalate absorption DBPA of 35 to 75 ml/100 g and a pH of 2 to 4.5 or 9 to 12.